

CASTLE ROCK

JANUARY 1985

The Stephen King Newsletter

ISSUE #1

This is the premiere issue of CASTLE ROCK, the Stephen King Newsletter. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date on the work of this prolific writer. CASTLE ROCK will be a monthly newsletter and we will have, along with all the news, trivia, puzzles, reviews, classifieds, contests, and, we hope, reader contributions.

To answer a question we often hear, to our knowledge there is no official Stephen King fan club. Many people have approached S.K., as we will refer to him in this newsletter, about starting one, but it's not an idea he's comfortable with, so we don't want this to turn into a fan club. In other words, no eight-by-ten glossies with your subscription, and no t-shirts with his face on them! We would be happy to hear from unofficial fan clubs out there--even if you're only a group who meets over the office coffee pot...

Some of things we'll be keeping an eye on for you in upcoming months:

Next book from S.K.: SKELETON CREW, formerly known as NIGHT MOVES. This will be a collection of short fiction, in the tradition of NIGHT SHIFT, most of it having previously been published in anthologies or magazines, and the list of works are as follows: THE MIST, THE MONKEY, THE RAFT, UNCLE OTTO'S TRUCK, DO THE DEAD SING (to be published this time under S.K.'s original title, THE REACH), HERE THERE BE TYGERS, CAIN ROSE UP, MRS. TODD'S SHORTCUT, THE JAUNT, THE WEDDING GIG, BEACHWORLD, SURVIVOR TYPE, WORD PROCESSOR OF THE GOD'S (previously published in PLAYBOY as simply THE WORD PROCESSOR), BIG WHEELS, THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT SHAKE HANDS, GRAMMA, MORNING DELIVERIES (MILKMAN #1), NONA, THE REAPER'S IMAGE, THE BALLAD OF THE FLEXIBLE BULLET, and two poems, PARANOID: A CHANT, and FOR OWEN, plus an introduction and notes by S.K. From G.P. Putnam, hardcover \$18.95, publication in May 1985.

Currently filming in North Carolina is CAT'S EYE, starring Drew Barrymore, Robert Hayes, Alan King, Candy Clark, Kenneth McMillan, Patti Lupone, James Woods and James Naughton. Screenplay is by S.K. and it is being directed by Lewis Teague...CAT'S EYE is based on several S.K. short stories (remember QUITTER'S, INC and THE LEDGE?), and we recently got a peek at a rough cut and were very impressed. Tentative release: March.

Also in the works, SILVER BULLET, which is based on S.K.'s 1983 book, CYCLE OF THE WEREWOLF, this will be produced by Dino DeLaurentiis and will also have a screenplay by S.K. Among the stars, Gary Busey (who played Buddy Holly and more recently, Bear Bryant) as Uncle Al (known as Uncle Red in this production). If you missed CYCLE OF THE WEREWOLF, and many did as it was published on a very limited scale, there are plans for a trade edition to tie in with the release of the movie. Word has it the book will include not only the original story, but the screenplay, stills from the movie, and notes from S.K....

PET SEMETARY, the movie...in the writing stages now, again, screenplay by S.K.! As Joe Bob Briggs, the Dallas Times-Herald drive-in movie critic, and a personal friend of S.K.'s, would say, "What's the matter, Big Steve? Having a slow week? Only three movies and four books?" George (CREEPSHOW and NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD) Romero will direct, and it should be filming in Maine next summer. No cast as yet, but we'll keep you informed...

 Speaking of Joe Bob Briggs, Big Steve recently journeyed to Texas for the 3rd Annual Drive-in Movie Festival and Custom Car Show. A special guest of Joe Bob's, S.K. received the Joe Bob Briggs Lifetime Achievement Award--a gorgeous engraved hubcap which we hear S.K. has hung over his john. The only other previous recipient was movie-maker Roger Corman. S.K. was very honored and enjoyed the festival, especially all that Texas hospitality and being chauffeured about in Joe Bob's Toranado. He also received a stunning desk set--a drive-in movie speaker mounted and engraved. If you've never read Joe Bob's columns, and you love drive-in movies, you're missing a treat. Subscribe to the Times-Herald...S.K. even occasionally writes to Joe Bob, and Joe Bob often reviews movies based on S.K.'s work...when they get to the drive-in, of course...

S.K. also dropped in on Erma Bombeck in Arizona recently. A guest and speaker at an annual dinner she gives for the Kidney foundation, S.K. also dined with Arthur Hailey, Mary Higgins Clark and Raquel Welch, along with lucky ticket-buyers from the Phoenix area. The dinner was a resounding success we hear, and S.K. drew raves...and long autograph lines...

On the road again....S.K. is scheduled to speak at the University of Massachusetts on April 1, 1985 (no April Fool's joke this), so if you're in the Boston area, you may want to check into this one. No other speaking dates scheduled as yet, but we'll keep you informed.

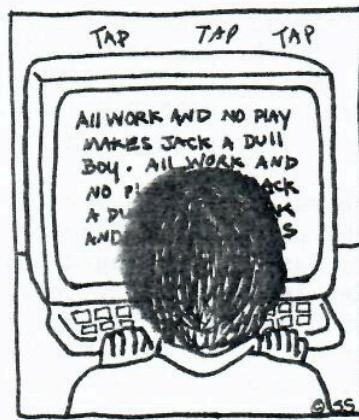
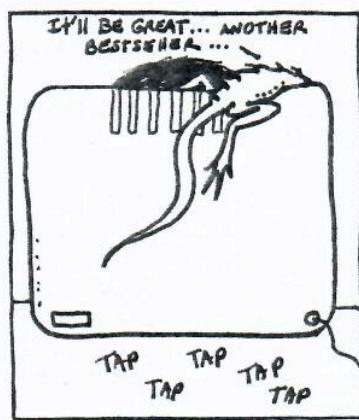
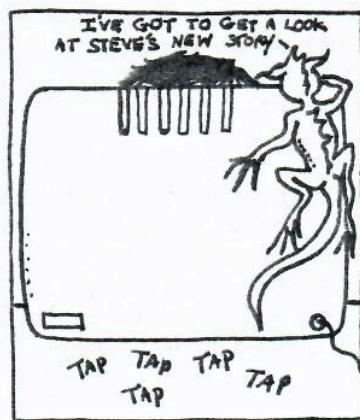
 We want to hear from you...we hope to have an active letters column...

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If you have comments, information, questions, or anything else to share with us, please write to CASTLE ROCK, LETTERS, Box 8183, Bangor, ME 04401. If you have a question about S.K., or about anything he's published past or present, we'll try to answer it. Please mark those letters ATTN: STEPHANIE. As Steve's secretary, if it can be answered, she'd probably be able to. Of course, we can't GUARANTEE an answer to EVERY question, but we'll try...

S.K. owns a terrific rock radio station in Bangor, WZON--what would you expect from a rock fan like him? So if you're in Bangor, making the pilgrimage past S.K.'s house on West Broadway (wish we had the flashbulb concession there!) like any true fan, tune your radio to 62 on the AM dial. WZON recently went AM Stereo and sounds better than ever. He occasionally does editorials for the "z", and with his permission perhaps we can bring you a few. You'll probably see a side of S.K. you wouldn't normally see...the political S.K....the silly S.K....

 AN ORDINARY DAY AT THE WORD PROCESSOR....



Be sure to pick up the February issue of THE TWILIGHT ZONE for the King/Straub interview...

New at the bookstore: STEPHEN KING: THE ART OF DARKNESS, by Douglas Winter (NAL, hardcover, \$14.95). This is a must-have for King-ophiles or Kingsons or whatever you want to call yourself. Douglas Winter is a writer who has often written about S.K. (in FANTASY NEWSLETTER, for instance, and in STEPHEN KING/STARMONT READER'S GUIDE 16, published by Starmont House in 1982), and this is a terrific and well-researched book. The book includes material from interviews with S.K., a summary of most of his published fiction, reviews & commentary, a chronology of S.K.'s life, a bibliography (a more detailed bibliography--the definitive King bibliography--by Winter will be published by Donald Grant in 1985...we'll keep you informed about that), sneak peaks at upcoming S.K. projects, and eight pages of black and white photos, many from S.K.'s private albums. The pictures alone are worth the price of admission...S.K. as a babe in his mother's arm, with his dog, Queenie...and as a young and earnest looking hopeful author posed in front of an ancient typewriter with a copy of THE CLASS FLOOR, the first short story for which he was paid, propped in the bail...

Trivia Quiz:

See how much you know about S.K. and his work...we'll have a monthly trivia quiz, answers in the next issue...think you've got a stumper? ...send it along to us...

1. Stephen King used a pseudonym when he published a short story called THE FIFTH QUARTER in CAVALIER in 1971. What was it?
2. In THE SHINING, what was Danny's middle name?
3. What was the name of the cereal Vic was representing in CUJO?
4. In what two movies did Stephen King appear?
5. In what town did CARRIE live?
6. In what two King books did Frank Dodd appear?
7. Stephen King shares his birthday, Sept. 21, with one of his characters. Who?
8. What was Carrie's full first name?
9. Lily Cavanaugh was nominated for an Academy Award for her role in a movie that was also the title of an unpublished early S.K. novel. What was it?
10. What was the full name of King's vampire-ridden town?

Here's the word on EYES OF THE DRAGON, the recently published limited by S.K. ...EYES was advertised in three fantasy magazines in September or October or this year--LOCUS, FANTASY REVIEW and also FANTASY and SCIENCE FICTION. A fantasy written by S.K. for his daughter Naomi (and dedicated to Naomi and to Ben Straub, son of THE TALISMAN co-author, Peter Straub), EYES is not only a wonderful story but a gorgeous book. Designed and "cared for" by a Bangor book-designer, Michael Alpert, EYES OF THE DRAGON is printed in 16-point type on mold-made cotton paper from France. Hard-bound, each book has a slipcase, and contains black and white illustrations by a West Virginia artist now living in the Bangor area, Kenneth Linkhauser. Priced at \$120 a copy, prospective buyers were asked to send their name and address to Philtrum Press, the publisher, before Nov. 5th, 1984. If more than 1000 names were received, a lottery would be held. Over 2000 cards and letters were received, and a lottery was held and the lucky 1000 were notified, and should have their books by Christmas. If you were not one of the 1000, take heart...a mass-market trade edition will be published in the next couple of years. The "winners" won't be disappointed--it's an exceptional story and an exceptionally well-made book...

Check your TV listings for a show called TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE. A syndicated show, one of the recent episodes was THE WORD PROCESSOR, based on S.K.'s short story (published in PLAYBOY May 1983). Produced by Laurel Entertainment, this show should be well worth the and this particular episode is wonderful. It has aired and will be airing on a sporadic basis around the country. Bruce Davison is featured as Richard, owner of the word processor...

CASTLE ROCK will be published monthly, the first issue being January 1985. Please make checks payable to CASTLE ROCK, and mail them to Box 8183, Bangor, ME 04401. Subscription price is \$12 per year, and your issue will be mailed by first class mail. Publisher and editor: Stephanie Leonard All material copyright © 1984 by Stephanie Leonard unless otherwise indicated. Submissions welcome, but we cannot return unless accompanied by postage.

YES!...I WANT CASTLE ROCK...

check one:
begin with issue
* I
CURRENT ISSUE

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY STATE _____

ZIP _____

ENCLOSED IS \$12⁰⁰ FOR A ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION.

We're really excited about this...S.K. has offered to let CASTLE ROCK bring you one of his unpublished stories, DOLAN'S CADILLAC, serialized in 4 parts! We'll hope to start bringing this to you next issue if luck and S.K.'s schedule will allow it. Maybe if we're REAL NICE to him he'll have other contributions in the future...write and beg him...we'll pass it on...

Got any S.K. books you want to sell? Looking for a particular S.K. book? Trade buy or sell those (or anything else related to S.K.) with our classifieds. \$3.00 per ad, up to two lines, 90 characters to a line, all CAPS free. Closing date for each issue is the 15th of the previous month.

EXAMPLE: First-edition DARK TOWER, fine condition, bookjacket and slipcase. Best offer. Submit bids to FRANK DODD, Box 000, Castle Rock, ME.

Coming soon...your chance to win a copy of CYCLE OF THE WEREWOLF...THE DARK TOWER...a WZON t-shirt...a free subscription to CASTLE ROCK...and other prizes....CASTLE ROCK will be having contests open to subscribers only...so, as they say, you gotta get in to win, so subscribe now....

Bad news if you don't have a copy of THE DARK TOWER...the latest word from Don Grant is that it is officially out of print...no plans for more printings...

How did S.K. spend Halloween? In several past years he's been at one con or another, but this year he was at home passing out candy and trying to scare the kiddies with a talking spook on the front porch...his house is always a big draw, as you might suspect, and this was another record breaking year. Trick or treaters started coming at 4PM and kept coming until after 8PM--five candy runs were made before the King's gave up and turned out the lights. Steve says next year he won't be around...he's only up for every other year or so!

Seems like S.K.'s name pops everywhere you look...in Family Circle's Dec. 11 issue, staffers were asked what their family Christmas customs are and one replied that he or she joins the family in Ohio and they stay up all night reading Stephen King novels! Think it'll catch on?

CASTLE ROCK is only 6 pages this month, but we'll be bigger and better next month...look for the first part of DOLAN'S CADILLAC...info on the ultimate vacation for a King fanatic...the details about the next King limited, SKELETON CREW...and more....

PUZZLE....see if you can find 18 words that have to do with S.K.'s books or movies. Clues below. The words read forward, backward, up, down or diagonally, and may overlap but no letters are skipped. Not all the letters in the puzzle are used. Answer next month.

K	O	O	C	R	E	V	O	P	W
C	H	A	R	C	I	E	O	L	A
I	T	U	M	N	P	N	F	R	S
L	N	F	N	W	K	I	T	E	P
G	H	R	A	O	I	T	W	D	R
M	O	C	J	R	P	S	O	C	I
C	J	O	R	D	Y	I	H	U	N
J	U	A	D	U	D	R	S	O	G
M	E	X	C	P	H	H	L	B	P
K	O	J	A	K	C	E	T	O	M

1. Hotel in THE SHINING
2. St. Bernard
3. Lonesome weedeater
4. The _____, Charlie's captors
5. Ralph and Danny _____
6. Cullen
7. Jack found a _____ nest
8. Strawberry _____
9. Ellie's cat
10. Man in SHINING, boy in TALISMAN
11. Dog in THE STAND
12. Firestarter
13. Cast _____ On THE Ladder
14. _____ Processor
15. Arnie's love
16. Children of the _____
17. Creep _____
18. Colorado town in THE STAND

For those of you waiting for your book club to offer THE TALISMAN, don't hold out. You'll be waiting in vain. No book club rights were sold, so you will only be able to get THE TALISMAN at bookstores. If you're interested in reading about marketing strategy, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY ran two articles regarding THE TALISMAN: Check out the Oct. 28 and November 23 issues. Basically, the reasoning for this decision goes like this. A best-selling author is sought after by the clubs because they will attract new members. But the fact is that the royalties are not as good from club sales, and with discounted books available from chain stores, the consumer can get almost as good a deal from them. Bookstores feel the book clubs are competitive, publishers apparently don't. But the way THE TALISMAN is selling, it looks like the decision was right--readers who can't get the books from clubs are heading for the bookstores. USA TODAY ran a recent story on the book, and its phenomenal sales, and everywhere its being called "the hottest" and "the fastest selling". NEWSWEEK ran a very negative and offensive review, speculating that there would be a lot of unhappy faces Christmas Day when they found a copy of THE TALISMAN under the tree...but we know better, don't we? For more about THE TALISMAN, read Donald L. Grant's column in the December issue of FANTASY REVIEW. In it, Dan (publisher of THE DARK TOWER and the new TALISMAN limited, discusses specialty/cont pg6

MORE news about CYCLE OF THE WEREWOLF...just since page one of the newsletter was completed, we got news that Signet will publish an oversize softcover edition of CYCLE in April 1985. Unlike the movie tie-in, this will not include stills or the screenplay, but will simply include the original text by Stephen King and illustrations by Berni Wrightson. Priced at \$8.95 in the U.S. and \$9.95 in Canada, you should be seeing it in the stores very soon. Good news for those of you who missed the Land of Enchantment publication!

SK was "honored" by PEOPLE magazine in their recent year-end issue. THE TALISMAN was chosen as one of the worst books of the year, quote "in horror fiction, two heads are better than one only if they're on the same body". He was also mentioned in the trivia section. An easy question--What was the first book by SK to appear on the New York Times best-seller list in 1984? PET SEMATARY.

We enjoy THE TWILIGHT ZONE but the cover for the February issue is the worst...buy it for the interview, but toss the cover! It's hard to describe...see for yourself...

TALISMAN news, continued...

publishing, and the making of THE TALISMAN limited. The book, by the way, is absolutely gorgeous, and those who bought it won't be disappointed. Book dealers complain that Don did not allow a dealer discount on this book, and the truth is, and they should admit this, they don't NEED a discount on such a book. They will resell it easily and at a respectable profit. SK limiteds don't go begging. The whole market for limiteds is changing, and soon we hope to bring you an article by SK on the subject...Don wraps his article up by saying he tries to be fair, and we're sure he succeeds.

For those who like to listen to books on tape, THE MIST is offered on tape by the SCIENCE FANTASY Cassette Club. THE MIST, originally published in Kirby McCauley's anthology DARK FORCES (Viking, 1980), and soon to be included in SKELETON CREW, is the first story of a new radio series by this company. It was broadcast on many radio stations on Halloween night this past year. If you are interested, write to SCIENCE FANTASY Cassette Club, ZBS Foundation, RR 1, Box 1201, Fort Edward, NY 12828, or call (518) 695-6406 or 695-3960. It's available in two formats--real-time chrome cassette for \$15.00 or Normal low-noise with Dolby B for \$10.00. Shipping would be \$.50 for 4th Class, \$1.00 for 1st class.

WANTED: First Edition Hardcovers, reasonably priced, SALEM'S LOT, NIGHT SHIFT, and CARRIE. Call (519) 471-2316, ask for Richard. Or send message via CASTLE ROCK mail box.

WANTED: THE EYES OF THE DRAGON. I missed the drawing, but really want a copy. Call (315) 649-8874, ask for Cheryl. Or send message via CASTLE ROCK mail box.

One interesting item that came to our attention recently is a publication called ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS PRESENTS STEPHEN KING. Published by New Media Publishing in Tampa, Florida and edited by James Van Hise, this work contains commentary on much of Stephen King's published work. Some of the commentary is favorable, some not-so-favorable, but on the whole it is interesting and occasionally directly quotes his work. It also has many black and white illustrations and cartoons. Never having seen this publication before, we assume that it is published regularly, highlighting various authors. Cover price is \$3.95, but we could find no details on ordering. The address of the publisher is 1518 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33612.

Wondering how much your SK books are worth? We did some checking in rare book catalogues and found THE DARK TOWER first editions being offered for between \$50 and \$100. First edition SALEM'S LOTS in good condition were offered for \$300.00 and up, and CARRIES for even more. Other first editions were listed anywhere from \$15 to \$85 depending on condition, but the catalogues also listed limiteds, galleys or proof copies, screenplays and short story inserts such as THE RAFT. We'll be keeping track over the coming months, and will try to keep you informed. We'd appreciate hearing from you about availability and price in your area.

As we've said, SK's name pops up all over (like in American Express commercials), all part of being a "brand name", as he's been known to say. If you haven't read it, you should pick up FEAR ITSELF: THE HORROR FICTION OF STEPHEN KING, edited by Chuck Miller and Tim Underwood, and published by Underwood-Miller in 1982, and recently by Plume as a trade paperback. It contains commentary by people such as George Romero, Peter Straub, Fritz Leiber, Douglas E. Winter and Charles Grant, among others, but also contains a non-fiction piece by SK called ON BECOMING A BRAND NAME. A fascinating and funny piece, it shouldn't be missed. One place SK popped up recently, much to our delight, was in Donald Westlake's new novel, A LIKELY STORY. SK has a "cameo" of sorts, but we'd recommend the book even if he didn't. Lots of fun, as always. Let us know if SK pops up unexpectedly...we'll share it next issue...